

-RICHARDSON (MAXWELL-OWENS-THOMAS) HOUSE- HABS NO 14-9

-SAVANNAH, GEORGIA-

CHATHAM Co.

HABS  
GA.

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Georgia  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Harold Bush-Brown, District Officer  
Georgia School of Technology, Atlanta, Ga.

RICHARDSON-~~MAXWELL~~-OWENS-THOMAS HOUSE  
Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia

Owner: Miss Margaret Thomas.

Date: 1816-1819.

Architect: It is claimed designed by Jay.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: Two and high basement.

Materials of Construction: Foundation walls tabby  
stuccoed, wood floors, exterior walls tabby stuccoed.

\* Other Existing Records: Records by P. Thornton Marye,  
District Officer HABS 1934. Garden History of Georgia  
compiled by Loraine M. Cooney, p. 23.

Additional Data: Double flight of entrance steps with  
gracefully curved cast iron balustrade. Two old cast iron  
lamps. Balcony on South side with Corinthian columns and  
cast iron balustrade. Side balcony supported on elongated  
vertical consoles. This house was rented and not owned by  
Mrs. Maxwell who ran boarding house according to Miss  
Margaret Thomas. Tablet on front by DAR. In stucco under  
porch is the inscription: "Began house A.D. 1816. Finished  
June A.D. 1819. John Retan."

\* GARDENS OF COLONY & STATE, p. 275  
MASON - DOMESTIC ARCH. OF EARLY  
AMERICAN REPUBLIC, PL. 112.

DEBORD ARCH. OF OLD SOUTH, PLATE 44  
(INCORRECTLY LABELED DAYTON HALL)

Harold Bush-Brown  
HAROLD BUSH-BROWN  
DISTRICT OFFICER-HABS

RICHARDSON HOUSE  
or  
Maxwell-Owens-Thomas House  
Lafayette Square  
Savannah, Chatham County  
Georgia

ARCHITECTURAL NOTES:

The use of curves is evident in many features of the Richardson or Owens mansion. The double stairs to the entrance door are curved. They rise to an unusual curved portico, covering a circular entranceway. The fireplace end of the drawing room is also circular.

The rusticated basement storey includes a kitchen, bakery, wine cellar and servants' quarters. Octagonal shaped wings at the back carry a two storey porch between them. On the south is a small porch with cast-iron fittings. The Ionic columns to the front porch are of concrete. A parapet with sunken panels runs entirely around the eaves of the house.

The parlor is ornamented with the Greek fret on the ceiling, and a white marble mantel carved with women carrying baskets of fruit. Not the least effective of the decorative elements is the excellent balustrade and cast-iron gate by the street.

The walls of Owens mansion are of tabby, smoothly stuccoed.

by Henry Chandler Torrance  
March 1936.